



Conservation Conversations

April 2007 - Issue No. Three

*Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet
Department for Natural Resources
Division of Conservation*

Letter from the Chairman of the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

These are obviously exciting and changing times with Kentucky's conservation district programs. As I attended the spring area meeting at Mammoth Cave, I found this year's meeting to be very informative and well attended. I understand that this was the case at all nine spring area meetings. From the reports I have received, the "sharing of conservation district success stories" provided excellent examples of how all conservation districts provide a valuable service in each of our communities. As chairman of the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission, I feel it is important that each of us as

district supervisors utilize every opportunity to promote and sell the value of our conservation programs in each of our communities.

In dealing with the challenges we will face during the USDA office restructuring in Kentucky, I would like to express on behalf of the Commission and the Division of Conservation our serious commitment to assisting each of Kentucky's 121 conservation districts in maintaining a "point of contact" for the delivery of conservation programs in each county. The Commission members will be re-evaluating the state's direct aid assistance to ensure that the much needed support is available in carrying out local conservation programs, where this support is most needed. Direct aid commitments from past years will be redirected to the new priorities of assisting counties in dealing with future office restructuring impacts. This will be a challenge because there are only limited funds available. All districts will be asked to help each other through this process.

I would like to express my appreciation to Mike Hubbs, our new state conservationist, for his openness and critical review of the workload

analysis and subsequent development of a restructuring plan to ensure technical assistance to all conservation districts and their customers. He invited the participation of the partnership in these deliberations and I personally feel he is a strong supporter of the locally led conservation district programs here in Kentucky. I agree with his statement that we can meet this new challenge by working together with a positive attitude in delivering a quality conservation program across Kentucky. I would also like to commend the outstanding job that each of you (as supervisors or staff) do through your local field office in delivering quality conservation programs and providing tremendous benefit to the quality of life in each of our communities.

In closing, I hope you will feel free to contact me or your area Commission member at any time you feel we can be of better assistance to you.

Sincerely,
Pete Dotson.



Pete Dotson, Chairman

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Linda Lake Named State Administrator of the Year

By Kimberly Bartley

Ms. Linda Lake has worked for the Mercer County Conservation District in Harrodsburg since June 1997 and has loved every minute of it. That is very apparent in her work. On March 15 at the Governor's Summit on Agriculture held in Louisville, Linda was awarded the State Administrator of the Year by the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy.

Linda grew up in Mercer County. She has lived on a farm her whole life, and she lives and breathes UK basketball. Linda was very honored to receive this award and attributes it to the support of her seven wonderful board members: Chairman Garland Yankey, Vice Chairman Tony Best, Treasurer Gayle Horn and members Tom Moore, Bill Royalty, Jim Wheeler and Dale Heise.

The Mercer County Conservation District has administered both the Hay Storage and Forage Improvement Programs through Phase I tobacco funds since 2001. Since then \$734,875.50 has been awarded to the landowners in the county. The district was also able to purchase a 200-gallon sprayer and a no-till drill to rent to landowners in the county at 50 percent cost share. It strives to provide programs that are worthwhile for the farmers and landowners in the county. The Phase I programs have definitely had an impact on Mercer County with over 70 hay storage facilities being built and numerous acres of land seeded. The equipment has also been a great success for the conservation district.

Garland Yankey, chairman of the district stated, "Thanks to Linda we have been able to administer these funds for almost six years without any problems. We don't know what we would do without her — it is great that she has been recognized for all of her hard work."



Linda Lake receives award at Governor's Summit

Martha Newby Receives National Honor

By Kim Richardson

In February, Martha Newby attended the National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Convention in Los Angeles, California where she received the District Professional of the Year Award. If you have not had the pleasure of meeting Martha, she is the district operations manager for the Woodford County Conservation District. She has been with the district for over 36 years.

If you are wondering how she got this honor, it first started out as Martha being chosen as the Kentucky Association of Conservation District Employees (KACDE) Employee of the Year. Then KACDE members submitted Martha's application to the Southeast Conservation District Employees Association where she received the honor of Southeast District Employee of the Year in November. The chain continued until she reached the top to win the national honor award.

Martha wears many hats at the

Woodford County Conservation District. Not only does she perform the administrative duties of the district but she also has the responsibility of managing the property and organizing activities at the Woodford County Agriculture Resource Building. The building, owned by the Woodford County Conservation District, hosts many activities throughout the year and for many different groups. The Agriculture Resource Center is not only home to the conservation district but also houses USDA's Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension, and Department of Fish and Wildlife. Basically the building was designed to be, as one producer in Woodford County puts it, "The Agriculture Mall."

For 36 years Martha has been an asset to the citizens in Woodford County. She has seen and helped to implement many programs during this time. At one

point, she even held the responsibility of educational coordinator. Ms Lillie Cox now fills that job.

Martha also volunteers her time as the reporter/newsletter editor for KACDE and is also the secretary/newsletter editor for the Southeast Conservation District Employees Association.



Martha with Bob Dobbs, NCDEA President

Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Authority Installs New Members

By Curtis M. Kirk

The Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Authority (Authority) convened for the 37th time on February 22, 2007, at the Division of Conservation in Frankfort. New members and those reappointed were sworn in and welcomed by Steve Coleman, chairman of the Authority. Lloyd Cress, Deputy Secretary for the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet, welcomed the new members and expressed the cabinet's appreciation for their willingness to serve on the Authority.



Those members sworn in were (left to right) James R. Lacy, a cattle and tobacco farmer from Wolfe County representing the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Kevin Jeffries, a grain farmer from Oldham County and a member at large representing agriculture operations; Delmar Lee Robey, a dairy and swine farmer from Logan County representing environmental organizations; Stephen R. Workman representing the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service and Michael D. Hubbs, state conservationist representing the USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service. Curtis Kirk (foreground), staff to the Authority, administered the oath of office.

Other members of the Authority are Chairman Stephen A. Coleman representing the Kentucky Division of Conservation; Joseph Larry Thomas, a crop and livestock farmer from Hardin County, representing Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation Inc.; Leah MacSwords representing Kentucky Division of Forestry; R. Stephen Fisher representing Kentucky Geological Survey; Ralonda Cornett, a livestock farmer from Jackson County and member-at-large representing agriculture operations; Jeff Hall representing the USDA Farm Services Agency; Robert C. Wade a row crop farmer from Hardin County and member at large representing agriculture operations; David Morgan representing the Kentucky Division of Water and representatives from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the Kentucky Department of Health Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services (vacant at present).



Several important water quality issues facing the state were brought before the Authority for their input and advice, all of which could have a significant impact on agriculture. Deputy Secretary Lloyd Cress, stated that the cabinet would like input from the Authority on the U.S. EPA requirement for states to develop numerical nutrient criteria for state water quality standards. He also stated that in the future the Authority needs to be the sounding board in any agricultural issues that come before the cabinet. Other water quality issues were discussed including a briefing by Stephen R. Workman, UK Cooperative Extension Service, on Senate Bill 271. This program relates to assessing groundwater across the state, determining the influence of best management practices on groundwater quality and establishing research and educational programs to assist Kentucky's citizens in maintaining and improving groundwater quality. Peter Goodman, Kentucky Division of Water, updated the Authority on Animal Feeding Operations and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (AFO/CAFO) in regards to permitting issues and requirements to implement Agriculture Water Quality Plans and Nutrient Management Plans. After discussing several other water quality issues and the future direction of the Authority it was decided that, at a minimum, the Authority would meet quarterly for the remainder of 2007 or sooner if needed.



Conservation Districts Putting Tobacco Funds on the Ground

By Curtis M. Kirk



Kentucky's conservation districts continue to work side by side with the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy and the 120 county agriculture development councils with the delivery of Phase I Tobacco Funds in Kentucky. Two members on each agriculture development council are represented by members nominated by Conservation Districts to serve two-year terms. These members have played a significant role in the establishment of the processes and programs that are now in place and assured their continuity resulting in sound environmental stewardship at the local level.

In addition to assuring sound leadership on the councils, conservation districts are assuming lead roles at the county level by administering many of the agricultural development projects and local model programs. These projects and programs are designed to help farmers; particularly tobacco farmers, to diversify and lessen their dependency on tobacco while incorporating sound conservation practices that protect the water and other natural resources.

In fiscal year 05-06, according to the Governor's Office for Agricultural Policy, conservation districts were administering local model programs in 87 counties totaling \$4,711,354. These programs help address identified needs in specific areas and meet guidelines and criteria for eligibility and disbursement of all funds while including strong environmental components. They have far reaching benefits for the farmer and the commonwealth.

A few examples of county model programs being administered by conservation districts are:

- The forage improvement and utilization program designed to improve pastures also improves and maintains vegetative covers and riparian areas preventing erosion, and minimizing animal waste nutrients, sediment and other pollutants into water supplies.
- The fallen animal program addresses the problem of dead animal disposal and assists counties with the sky rocketing costs of proper disposal. This is vital and addresses aesthetics, odors, health risks and possible water pollution.
- The Shared Equipment Program provides conservation and other specialized equipment at the local level to help farmers install best management and other conservation practices

Other projects include: Farm Livestock Fencing Improvement; Cattle Genetics Improvement; Hay, Straw and Commodity Storage; On-farm water enhancement; Agricultural Diversification; Technology; Dairy and Swine Diversification; Cattle Handling Facilities and some county specific projects.

The General Assembly also established and allocated funding of an Environmental Stewardship Program from the tobacco settlement funds. The Division of Conservation continues to receive millions of dollars to provide direct cost-share assistance to agricultural producers seeking to come into compliance with state agricultural water quality laws and other environmental compliance programs. These funds are being allocated through conservation districts, utilizing the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program.

Steve Coleman, director of the Kentucky Division of Conservation feels conservation district supervisors are to be commended for their cooperation with the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, the county agriculture development councils and Kentucky's farmers. This cooperation and hard work have allowed Phase I Funds to be utilized where they can do the most good.



Forage Improvement and Utilization and On-farm water enhancement BMPs improve a farmer's ability to manage his pastures and increase production. Farmers utilize existing water supplies (springs, ponds, creeks etc.) by piping water to alternative watering systems such as the fountain or watering tank shown above. (Photos by Franklin County Conservation District)

2007 Area 8 Meeting Held in Rowan County

By Pam Williams

The time for area meetings has arrived again. These annual meetings are sponsored by the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts (KACD). Their purpose is to provide conservation district supervisors and staff and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees, an overview of upcoming issues and the latest updates on programs, legislation and budget-related items that might affect them.

Rowan County district supervisor Sam Hughes got the meeting underway with the introduction of keynote speakers Steve Coleman, Director of the Division of Conservation, and Mike Hubbs, NRCS state conservationist. Their comments focused on legislation, budget issues, office restructuring and state and federal programs. Both Mr. Coleman and Mr. Hubbs commended the conservation district supervisors for their efforts and support in achieving the goals that further the conservation mission. Mr. Hubbs said that with the specifics of the expected USDA office restructuring to be announced soon, it was no coincidence that the Area 8

meeting was held in a district-owned office, and that it was overwhelming to see how functional the conservation district office was. New on area meeting agendas this year are success stories from conservation districts in the area. Carl Fannin, chairman of the Elliott County Conservation District, spoke about their success in acquiring their land and office building. He stated that it took the dedication and determination of each Elliott County district board member, administrative secretary Brenda Feters and other supporters to realize their goal of the district owning its own land and office building. He thanked the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the Division of Conservation and the fiscal court for assistance in the funding and acquisition of land for the conservation district.

Christy Cook, educational coordinator for the Johnson County Conservation District, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the success of their outdoor classroom and efforts in environmental education. Ms. Cook talked about the many ways the classroom was utilized. Students from

kindergarten through high school use it for science, math and creative writing. The ultimate success of the Johnson County outdoor classroom is that it serves a purpose for students and adults year round and it's growing and changing every day. Christy invited everyone to visit their outdoor classroom whenever they had a chance.

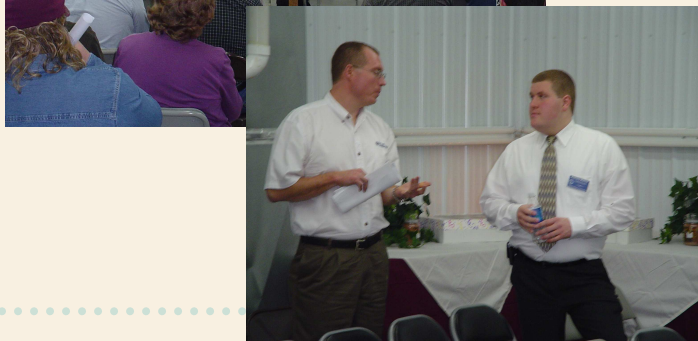
The Floyd County Conservation District gave a PowerPoint presentation on the steps they took in acquiring their district-owned office. Mr. Tony Grubb, district clerk for Floyd County, spoke about the process of acquiring their own office, how they prioritized each major undertaking to get to where they are now. He encouraged any district that's thinking about buying or building their own office to partner with as many folks as possible. Mr. Grubb said, "You never know who may be able to help you in different situations."

Following a short business session, the meeting adjourned and all meeting goers enjoyed dinner and fellowship.

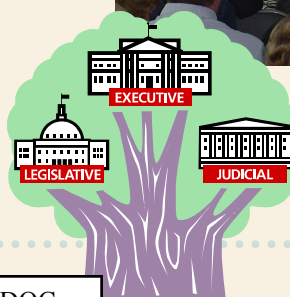
Carl Fannin, District Chairman Elliott County



Christy Cook, Ed. Coordinator, Johnson



Tony Grubb, Floyd County & Anthony Mullins, DOC



Steve Coleman, Carl Fannin, Johnny Ison

Floyd County Conservation District Holds Tree Giveaway

By Anthony Mullins

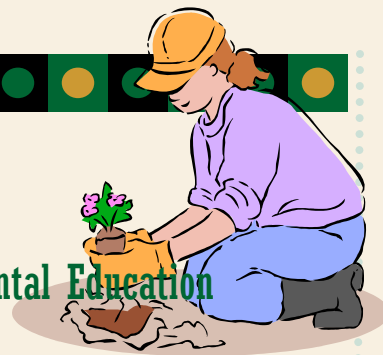


While our state and national leaders discuss global warming and other environmental issues, Floyd countians pulled together to make a difference. The Floyd County Conservation District held it's annual tree giveaway in early February and distributed around 8,000 tree seedlings this year. With the help of the Carl D. Perkins Job Corp. Center, the district was able to prepare the trees for the giveaway. Residents from all over the county came to get trees for soil erosion, wildlife, etc. James Staggs and students of South Floyd High School distributed trees to their area of the county for the conservation district. The Floyd County Conservation District would like to thank the organizations that helped prepare the trees for the giveaway, and the residents of Floyd County who participated in this year's event!



Whitley County Conservation District Partners for Environmental Education

By David Keltner



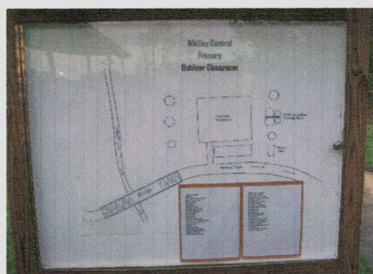
Vickie Hart, administrative secretary for the Whitley County Conservation District, convinced her board to award some of their funds to the local school system for the purpose of further educating students about the environment. She thought that the board's money would be well spent if it could assist the school system in providing students with hands-on experience obtained outside of the classroom. Since the board was involved with wildlife habitat restoration through working with landowners within the district, this would coincide with what the school system was trying to undertake with an environmental education program. The Whitley County Conservation District, like many conservation districts across the state, decided it was necessary to contribute funding to environmental education that many school systems were incorporating into their studies.

The Whitley County Conservation District Board set up a \$500 grant program to be awarded to each school within the county, provided the school submitted a written proposal describing what they intended to do to enhance their environmental educational program. Since the year 2000, \$19,500 in \$500 grants have been awarded to different schools in the county. Joe Bailey, Whitley County Conservation District board member and science and mathematics coordinator for the Whitley County School System, contacted each science teacher and convinced them to apply for these grants offered by the district. The board decided not to fund projects that were strictly campus beautification and also made it clear to teachers they wanted grant proposals that incorporated the subjects of math, science and social studies.

Many grant proposals have been submitted since the year 2000. Some of the projects and education materials funded include, but are not limited to the following: outdoor classrooms, butterfly gardens, rock gardens, compost bins, native and other plants with identification labels, erosion control projects, birdhouses made at school, wildlife viewing observatory with webcam, nature trail, microscopes, water test kits, wetland areas or ponds and color resource guides of materials on hand.



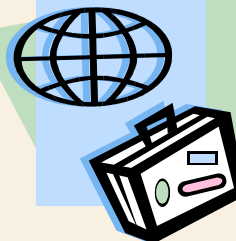
Whitley County Central Outdoor Classroom





Where are they going next? West Kentucky Conservation Districts Travel the Country

By Debbie Hinton



For the last four years the Fulton County Conservation District has sponsored an educational trip for farmers in western Kentucky.

In 2006, the annual farm trip went to Chicago, Illinois. On their way to Chicago, the busload of farmers stopped by the Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM) Headquarters in Decatur. The farmers heard about ADM's endeavors in ethanol production and research into other uses for soybean and corn by-products. The next stop on the tour was downtown Chicago at the Board of Trade. There farmers were allowed to be on the floor during trading. This was a very exciting place for these farmers; they make their living by following the prices on their commodity crops (wheat, corn and soybeans). While in downtown Chicago, the group toured a brewery, went to the Sear's Tower, saw the traveling tour of King Tut's tomb, went to plays and much more.

The Fulton, Graves, and Hickman County conservation districts work together on these tours. They get their funding from various sponsors in each of their communities. They also get a lot of help through the seed, fertilizer and pesticide companies in the area. The companies feel that it is a small payback for all the money the farmers spend with them over the year to put out a crop.

From 2003 - 2005, the tour has gone to St. Louis to visit the Monsanto plant and enjoy a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game; to Iowa to view the Amana colonies, the McKenzie equipment plant and the John Deere factory; then to New Orleans where they were fortunate to see the city in mid-July prior to Hurricane Katrina.

The New Orleans trip generated a lot of interest including that of several conservation districts outside Kentucky. District supervisors and farmers from Fulton, Graves and Hickman counties, along with counterparts from Tennessee, participated.

The group left Hickman on two charter buses and headed south for four days of nonstop sightseeing. They stopped at an Oyster farm in Houma, Louisiana. On Avery Island, the group visited the wildlife center and the Tabasco factory. The group stayed in the heart of the French Quarter and enjoyed all the sites, smells and flavors there.

While in the area the group adventured on a swamp buggy ride in Slidell, Louisiana. To hear the stories after the return, the group had a wild ride. However, we are sad to report that this operation was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

The highlight of the trip was a visit to the Bunge Corporation's main shipping and receiving port. A lot of



Tour Busses Arrive at the Bunge Corporation

the farmers on the trip do business with Bunge in Hickman with their grain, so it was interesting to see what happens to the grain they harvest and unload in Hickman and where it can end up in New Orleans.

In 2007, the group is planning to visit Savannah, Georgia. There is already a full bus with others on a waiting list. Tatia Bradshaw, administrative secretary for the Fulton County Conservation District, is working closely with the USDA state conservationist in Georgia to coordinate this trip.

The Fulton, Graves and Hickman County conservation districts feel that this is a good way to educate and inform the young and older farmers in their counties.

Youth Ag Days in Ohio County

By Shanna Drake



On September 6 - 7, 2006, approximately 400 students, teachers, administrators and other volunteers participated in the 10th annual "Youth Ag Days" at Luttrell Farms in Ohio County. Darren Luttrell, who is the chairman of the Ohio County Conservation District Board of Supervisors, and his family have hosted the program each year beginning in 1997.

"Youth Ag Days" bring approximately 350 fourth-grade students from the six public elementary schools to Luttrell Farms. Students arrive at the farm around 9 a.m. and spend the day visiting agriculture education oriented stations gaining knowledge about farm life that they may not get anywhere else. Some of the stations include a proper land use and erosion control demonstration from the Ohio County Conservation District (primary sponsor of this year's event) and NRCS; lawn mower safety from the Farm Service Agency; and a forestry presentation from the Kentucky Division of Forestry. Others include entomology, a petting zoo and one station with \$1 million worth of equipment for students to view.

Darren Luttrell hopes that "Youth Ag Days" will allow the students to "gain a greater appreciation of the agriculture community---from farming to food on the table."

Brad Haney and Jackie Westerfield man the Ohio County Conservation District Station



Fourth-Grade Students Enjoy Hayride During Youth Ag. Days

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1972

No-Till Corn Meeting To Be Held March 27

The Taylor County Conservation District will sponsor a no-till corn meeting to be held at the Taylor County RECC building in Campbellsville on Monday night, March 27, at 7:30 p.m., according to an announcement by Morris Horn, SCD Chairman.

D.A. Colson, Conservation Agronomist, and Noble Howard, District Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service will present a color slide program on no-till corn growing. Colson, in addition to being a professional Agronomist, operates a 200 acre grain farm in Simpson County. He is well qualified both from experience and training to conduct this type meeting, the announcement noted.

No-till farming is an outstanding conservation practice, but it's a very technical practice. One mistake in the use of chemicals, for example, may result in a complete crop failure.

Corn growers who have had problems with this practice in the past or new growers who are anticipating using no till for the first time are urged to attend this meeting.

Refreshments will be served, compliments of the Cumberland Production Credit Association, Donald Gaines, local representative.

No-till has certainly come a long way since this meeting!

Thanks to Linda Russell and the Taylor County Conservation District for this history moment.

The News-Journal



FARM NEWS



IF NO-TILL CORN GROWING is done right on the right kind of land, the above results can be expected. This field on the Morris Horn farm near Campbellsville shelled out over 150 bushels per acre. Corn growers are invited to attend a special no-till meeting at the Taylor County RECC building, Monday night, March 27, at 7:30 p.m.



THE THEODORE COWHERD FARM near Bengal illustrates the ideal condition for no-till corn planting - a heavy fescue sod on good land. No-till is a very technical practice. One mistake with the use of chemicals, for example, may result in a complete crop failure. This field produced about 150 bushels per acre.



Conservation Programs Help Farmers Curb Their Contribution To Water Pollution

By Curtis M. Kirk

According to a report recently released by the Kentucky Division of Water (DOW), agriculture has been tagged as the leading cause of water pollution in the state. It is considered a “nonpoint source” and is very difficult to monitor and control since it comes from many sources. Farmers own or operate the largest majority of the land area with the most miles of streams so it is most likely that they do contribute significantly to nonpoint source pollution. Agriculture often gets lumped in with other nonpoint sources of pollution such as animal waste from wildlife, failing and improper uses of septic systems, straight pipes and other sources that are hard to detect or monitor, further complicating the process of determining agricultures’ exact contribution.

However, many of Kentucky’s farmers recognize their contribution to water pollution and the impact it has on water quality and are actively engaging in measures and making choices that will, over time, improve the quality of Kentucky’s water. Since October 2001 Kentucky’s Agriculture Water Quality Act has required farmers to develop and implement agriculture water quality plans for their farms. According to the Division of Conservation (DOC), the state agency that tracks the number of plans filed in county conservation districts by landowners, over 60,500 landowners now have agriculture water quality plans.

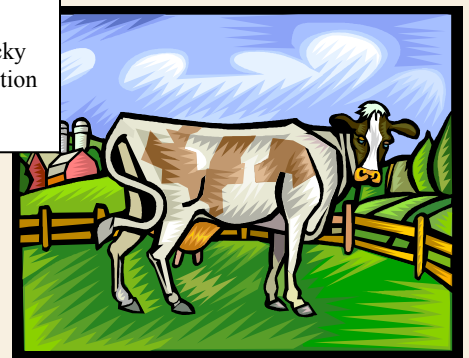
Individual water quality plans are developed through choices of best management practices (BMPs) designed and approved in the State Water Quality Plan. They are designed to prevent runoff from sediment, nutrients, pesticides and other sources of pollution from activities on a farming or silviculture operation. Implementation of these BMPs can be very costly and requires intensive technical assistance to meet certain standards and specifications. The cost often makes them prohibitive to many farmers. DOC administers several programs through Kentucky’s 121 conservation districts to make technical and financial assistance available to landowners.

The Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program, administered by the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC), provides cost share assistance to farmers to install BMPs. Top priority is given to animal waste and targets watersheds where water quality impairment exists. According to Steve Coleman, director of the Division of Conservation, the cost share program has been very successful, but the demand is still much greater than the funds available. During the program’s short history 21,465 farmers have applied for cost-share assistance to install BMPs at a projected cost of \$214 million. The SWCC approved 7,725 of these applications and DOC has disbursed \$82 million to these landowners, fully utilizing all funds available for cost share. It also provides financial assistance to correct water quality problems identified by DOW if a corrective measures plan has been developed and approved.



An animal waste system helps a Barren County farmer manage the animal waste from his dairy and allows him to use best management practices designed to keep animal waste out to the water.

Photo by the Kentucky Division of Conservation





Conservation Programs Helping Farmers Curb Their Contribution To Water Pollution -Continued-

DOC is also involved in other programs to help farmers prevent nonpoint source pollution:

- The 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control program provides funds to local farmers and contractors to reduce nonpoint source pollution in the commonwealth. The majority of the funds are spent on BMPs and demonstration projects on local farmlands.
- Conservation district technical assistance and office support funds (Direct Aid) make it possible for farmers to access federal, state and programs at the local level. Federal Direct Grants and other funding sources provide base level support to districts and have assisted in hiring 25 technical service providers (TSPs) through the federal Technical Service Provider Program under the Farm Bill.
- The DOC Equipment Revolving Fund provides funding to purchase heavy and specialized equipment used to install conservation and best management practices to prevent erosion and to protect water quality.
- The Kentucky Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) is providing financial assistance by offering cost share reimbursement to landowners who install pre-approved conservation practices on their forest lands. DOC is assisting the Division of Forestry by administering payments to private landowners.
- The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) provides grants to landowners to create or improve wildlife habitat. DOC distributed funding to landowners to install these practices.

The report released by DOW is not good news. However, the good news is that farmers, with the help of local conservation districts and state and federal agencies, are implementing best management practices to protect our waters from pollution that might result from agriculture or silviculture activities. These efforts by farmers will contribute greatly to an improved report for the future of Kentucky's water.

A CRP high tensile fence was installed to protect a Riparian Buffer along the Little Sandy River in Greenup County, near Oldtown, Ky.

Photo by Earl Johnson, NRCS





Menifee County Conservation District hosts Programs Information Meeting By Pam Williams



On Thursday, February 1, 2007, the Menifee County Conservation District held a public information meeting with a special emphasis on the partnership between the conservation district, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Division of Conservation and the necessity for all of our agencies to work together in bringing the needed assistance to each county. A very informative overview of the programs the conservation district will administer this year was provided. Conservation District Chairman Dillard Smallwood said, "This is exactly what more landowners need, timely information related to the programs and services that we have available and to let them know exactly what each agency's role is in providing cost share and technical assistance to our county."

The landowners gathered at the Menifee County Conservation District office

to learn about practice specifications, sign-up periods, ranking criteria and eligibility requirements. The meeting focused on the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program, the local Agriculture Development Programs and USDA's Environmental Quality and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Programs, along with the Conservation Reserve and Wetland Reserve Programs. Randy Smallwood, district conservationist, gave a presentation on new mapping capabilities that will allow landowners to receive a more detailed and enhanced map of their farms, along with more accurate field acreage calculations. It has become a very important tool for the technical staff in completing the necessary documentation for conservation plans, contracts and applications.

As the evening concluded several landowners indicated they felt better informed, had a greater understanding of

what programs are available and how these programs can address their resource concerns, and where to look for assistance.

This is another way conservation districts are successfully providing effective service to landowners.



Randy Smallwood Speaks to Landowners



Morgan County Mourns Loss of Supervisor

By Pam Williams



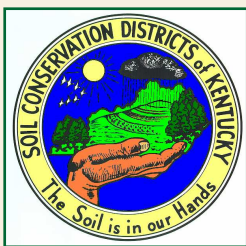
The Morgan County Conservation District was saddened by the sudden death of Mr. Ercil Ward on February 3, 2007. Mr. Ward was very dedicated in advancing the presence, purpose and mission of the conservation district. He made every effort to attend all conservation district board meetings, state conventions and area meetings for over 20 years. During that time, he had the opportunity to know and work with many other supervisors and individuals from across the state. He certainly has influenced many lives and left us with the determination to continue with our mission. We will remember Ercil for his many contributions in promoting the stewardship of our land and as a dedicated board member and friend to each of us.

*Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet
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We're on the Web!
www.conservation.ky.gov



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2007 Conservation District Quarterly Calendar

April

- Deadline for District Budget and Annual Plan of Work to Frankfort Office—1st
- Deadline for Direct Aid Request to Frankfort Office—1st
- KACD Junior Board Nominations to Frankfort Office—1st
- Equipment Revolving Loan Payments – 10th
- Outstanding Conservation District Recognition Awards Contest—15th
- Regional Envirothon Contest (14th West Contest and 21st East Contest)
- Arbor Day/Earth Day
- Conservation District Supervisors Leadership Development Workshops
- Area Conservation District Employee Training Meeting—DOC Field Representatives
- Soil Stewardship Week
- Monthly Cost Share Status Reports, Treasurer Reports and CD Employee Time Sheets
- Uniform Financial Reports Completed and submitted to Local Development—DEADLINE May 1st

May

- KACD Committees
- KACD State Envirothon Contest (15th and 16th)
- Deadline for NACD Conservation Education Awards (teacher and district) to Local District—1st
- KACD Outstanding Conservation Co-Operator Award Nominations due to Frankfort Office
- Pre-Registration for KACD State Convention Information Sent out to Districts
- Equipment Revolving Loan Payments – 10th
- KACD Board of Directors Meeting—8th at 10 a.m.
- Soil and Water Conservation Commission Meeting—14th at 9 a.m.
- Monthly State Cost Share Status Reports, Treasurer Reports and CD Employee Time Sheets
- Special District Purpose Budget Reports to Fiscal Court—DEADLINE June 1st

June

- Forestry Camp
- Soil Stewardship Program Award Applications due to Frankfort Office
- Deadline for NACD Conservation Education Awards (teacher and district) to Frankfort Office—1st
- State Convention Resolutions due to Frankfort Office
- Equipment Revolving Loan Payments – 10th
- Monthly State Cost Share Status Reports, Treasurer Reports and CD Employee Time Sheets

